

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending. By this Response, claims 1 and 30 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the interview conducted on January 15, 2008. From the interview it was concluded that the step of "predicting an interruption" needs to be better defined in order to distinguish the present application from Jensen. Applicant notes that claims 1 and 30 have been amended in this effort. The following remarks discuss the amendments and further clarify some of the relevant aspects of the present invention and Jensen.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen et al. (US 5,671,219). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, applicant wants to be clear about the meaning of the term "specific user terminating information" that is used in the present invention. The present invention deals with a receiver that receives a continuous flow of information in a broadcasting system. The fundamental issue is that some parts of this information are "relevant" for the receiver (intended for and/or needed/wanted by the receiver or user thereof) and the rest of the information is NOT relevant for the receiver/user. In the present application the "relevant" information is called "specific user terminating information". So, the term "specific user terminating information" simply refers to those parts of the continuous flow of information that the receiver is supposed to receive. (See

also paragraph [0008] of the present application.) In that sense, there is also “specific user terminating information” in Jensen. In Jensen, the “specific user terminating information” for a certain receiver is equivalent to the information transmitted during the time slot (“air channel” in Jensen’s terminology) that is allocated for transmission to that specific receiver.

The idea of embodiments of the present invention is for the receiver to identify time periods during which the continuous flow of information contains no “specific user terminating information”. If/when such periods of time can be found/identified, the receiver can use this time to temporarily interrupt the reception of the continuous flow of information and instead use the receiver parts to search for alternative reception frequencies without risking losing any of the “specific user terminating information” transmitted on the currently active frequency.

Before discussing how the time periods with no “specific user terminating information” are detected/predicted (i.e. how the “predicting an interruption” step is done) in the present invention, let’s first address how the corresponding step is done in Jensen. In Jensen, the time periods with no “specific user terminating information” are defined by a predetermined transmission sequence, during which there are certain well-defined time slots (“air channels” in Jensen’s terminology) that are used for “specific user terminating information” and also well-defined gaps in-between (see col. 2, lines 6-11). The allocation of time slots (air channels) for a certain receiver is done during a certain link establishing procedure, consisting of a certain polling scheme (“sequence of handshaking steps”, see col. 12 line 30 – col. 13 line 11). (See also Note 1 below.) Once the time slot structure is defined and agreed between

Note 1: The link establishing procedure described in Jensen has no relevance for the present invention, since this procedure consists of mutual exchange of messages which is not possible in the uni-directional system that is targeted in the present invention. I.e. is not possible to transmit messages from the receiver to the transmitter site

the base station and the receiver, the receiver merely needs to rely on time synchronization in order to know the start and end of the time slots containing “specific user terminating information” (see col. 2, lines 16-29), thus being able identify “dead time” in-between that can be used for the monitoring of other frequencies (see col. 2, lines 30-32).

In the system targeted by the present invention there is no pre-determined transmission sequence that can be relied upon in order to identify the time periods with no “specific user terminating information”. Instead, the receiver typically must continuously monitor the flow of information and detect/predict time periods with no “specific user terminating information”, based on the characteristics of the “specific user terminating information”. The typical case targeted by the invention is where (citing the description of the invention) “the characteristics of the specific user terminating information flow is that it is clustered, i.e. sent in lumps, usually of a well defined size or comprises an indication of the end” (see last sentence of paragraph [0026]).

Therefore, in order to clearly distinguish the present invention from Jensen, the step of “predicting an interruption” may be further defined to make use of an indication of the end of a particular cluster of “specific user terminating information”, where this “indication” is carried as a part of the cluster of “specific user terminating information”. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to include language as follows:

...“
predicting an interruption in the form of a natural break in
the flow of specific user terminating information, based on
an indication of the end of a cluster of the specific user
terminating information, where the indication of the end of

(“base station” in Jensen’s terminology) in a pure broadcasting system (e.g. DAB och DVB-T) as targeted by the present invention.

the cluster of specific user terminating information is part of
the cluster of the specific user terminating information.
..."

Corresponding amendments are also made to independent claim 30.

These amendments are supported by the last sentence of paragraph [0026] in the description part of the application (as cited above). It is the firm opinion of the applicant that this wording of the claims clearly distinguishes the present invention from Jensen.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Jensen's fails to teach each and every feature of Applicants independent claims 1 and 30 as well as dependent claims 2 and 3. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the reference to communicate using Jensen's system through different networks to make extensive modifications to Jensen's system to accommodate the claimed features. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


For at least the above reasons Applicants respectfully submit Claims 1-37 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  48,712
Michael R. Cammarata
Registration No.: 39,491
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant